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pairs of this wholly beneficial species, all of whom succeeded in rearing their young, thus increasing several fold. While a decade may pass before the Bluebird, *Sialia sialis*, becomes as abundant as it was before the great blizzard of February, 1895, pairs and small flocks may commonly be seen, where it was unusual to find a solitary individual or pair, the previous year. The rapidity with which this species is recovering from the almost annihilation occasioned by the great storm at their winter home, is gratifying indeed. To the above list I would add the Belted Kingfisher, *Ceryle alcyon*; Blue Jay, *Cyanocitta cristata*; Baltimore Oriole, *Icterus galbula*; Cardinal, *Cardinalis cardinalis*; and most of our breeding Warblers. All being bright plumaged birds, I am almost persuaded to believe that cruel fashion has become less importune in her demands upon Nature for adornment of this class. That this relic of barbarism has not yet become obsolete I have recently had ample proof, for *seven* Hummingbirds were counted on the hat of a lady examining my collection, the display fairly rivalling the case of mounted birds she was viewing.

FRANK L. BURNS, *Berwyn, Pa.*

THE BREEDING OF WARBLING AND YELLOW-THROATED VIREOS.—WARBLING VIREO.—On the morning of May 31, 1893, I noticed a Warbling Vireo taking cotton from a bunch which I am in the habit of keeping in a tree by my window. The nest was soon found, about half finished, in an apple tree, near the end of a lower limb and about ten feet from the ground. The tree stood in a row by a little used drive-way, 100 yards from the bird's "cotton mine." After watching the nest for some time I found that the female took, on an average, one minute for the round trip after cotton, and another to put it in the nest. The male did not work, but kept near his mate and sang almost constantly. On June 3, in the afternoon, there were two eggs in the nest, so the first was probably laid the day before—June 2. June 5, 7:15 A. M., there were three eggs, and the bird was on, probably laying the fourth, as she left the nest with great reluctance. June 10 and 17 sitting, but on the 25th the four young were out and not less than four days old. The pin-feathers on the spinal tract were 1-16 inch long. This would make the period of incubation fifteen days if the bird began to sit immediately after laying the last egg, and if my estimate of the age of the chicks was correct. I had to be away for a week at this time, and on July 5, I took the deserted nest. It was quite lousy. The materials used were few—a frame of cedar bark strips, filled  $\frac{1}{4}$  inch thick with cotton and lined very thinly with a few dry grass stems.

**YELLOW-THROATED VIREO.**—The nest was found on May 31, 1893, by looking in the tree where I had found nests in 1891 and 1892. This nest was not two feet from the 1892 site. It was about twenty feet up in a large sugar maple by the road side, and overhanging a barnyard. Some cedar bean poles in a garden across the way had supplied bark for the body of the nest, and the "ornaments" were, as always, green moss and plenty of white spider's egg cases, picked from tree trunks and the nearest fences. The nest contained at the time three eggs, and the birds objected strongly to my handling them. On June 5, the bird was sitting, and again on the 10th and 11th. They are very reluctant to leave the nest, more and more so, I think, as time passes. I have twice touched a female with my fingers before she would leave a nest of freshly hatched young; this in the pleasantest of June weather too! On June 17, the young were out—four or five days old, having pin-feathers on the back 1-16 inch long. Supposing them to have been four days old, this makes the period of incubation twelve days. Such "estimates" as this are always unsatisfactory, but may serve to emphasize the need of more industrious field work in such matters.

HENRY R. BUCK, *Wethersfield, Conn.*

**HENSLOW'S SPARROW,** *Ammodramus henslowii*.—I secured an adult female one mile south of Berwyn on October 23, 1896, under somewhat peculiar circumstances. A large black and white cat was seen along the fence of a pasture field, with something in her mouth. Through coaxing I rescued the yet living bird from her jaws, without injury to the feathers. It proved to be an old bird in excellent plumage, with the exception of the primaries and secondaries, which were scarcely three-fourths grown. This, together with its extreme fatness, rendered it an easy victim to tabby. Its stomach was filled with a species of wingless *Diptera*. This is my first personal record of this bird in the state, although I have found it along the coast of New Jersey, where it is less uncommon.

FRANK L. BURNS, *Berwyn, Pa.*

**LATE DATE FOR PRAIRIE WARBLER,** *Dendroica discolor*.—A single individual of this species was observed feeding in a pasture field, and on the bank above a road-side on October 24th, '96, an unusually late date. I succeeded in approaching within four feet and examining it for fully half a minute before it took alarm and flew to a young tree, where it was joined by another of its kind.

FRANK L. BURNS, *Berwyn Pa.*